The Centaurian Sentinel™

Dedicated to J. Michael Straczynski's television series Babylon 5.

Data File 31 • March 1997 **BABYLON 5 EDITION**

THE MINDS EYE OF B5 – JOHN C. FLINN III

The interview for this article was conducted at Babylonian Productions, CA, by Dennis Bateman.

Before coming to work for Babylonian Productions John C. Flinn, III had worked on a couple of 4-hour miniseries with Doug Netter and John Copeland at Rattlesnake Productions. A few years later, just by chance, he decided to give them a call. "They just happened to say, 'We were just talking about you. Come on down, we have an idea. We want to talk to you about a show.' I went down to talk to them and it just happened to work out. We all hooked-up together."

His first impression of BABYLON 5 was that the new series was going to be a challenge to do. "I thought it was really interesting. I knew it was going to be a tough show. It needed everybody to be on top of it at all times. And that's exactly what they are doing at all times. We are very fortunate to keep it going."

His past television experiences have been mostly working in the cops and robbers and western genres. "I thought it was kind of a nice change to come into this sci-fi. I have never done it before. It was all new technology for me and I was lucky to get the position over a lot of other people. I never had the opportunity to get into the digital format, and interact with special effects, and CGI. As the director of photography it has given me room to experiment with a lot of different things. There are no rules in the year 2258 (I'm going back to the beginning) so I was able to establish a look that everybody liked, and now we build from that, and make what we have better.

"Every chance we get we have the opportunity to make it better and better. John Iacovelli designs great sets. He and I are in total communication with the people who do the special effects. Working with the colors they are going to use in their computers graphics – they'll fill us in on what they are going to do – I interact with my light. I can take the people right through that camera, explain to them – and they know me all well enough – where I can I can make it work for them and for me."

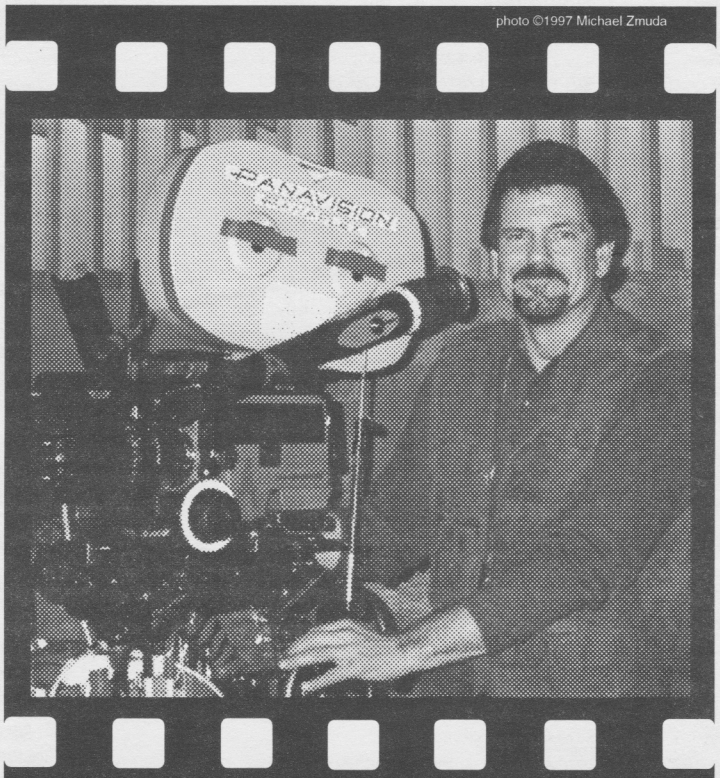

photo ©1997 Michael Zmuda

John C. Flinn III, a.s.c. – BABYLON 5's Director of Photography

John's involvement in directing the special effects and computer graphics for BABYLON 5 is minimal and is usually discussed before hand. "It's so hard to get together with them. We do meet in production meetings and say this is what we are going to have. They have a story board drawn out and they give me an idea – this is what's going to happen when the ships are attacking, near misses, and things that are coming into the station. As a director of photography, whatever light they are working with, explosions, whatever, we interact together on that, and I interact on the set with them. As far as being there, we haven't got the time. It's always 'go, go, go!'"

As the director of photography how does John approach doing an episode of BABYLON 5? "Number one: you read the script. Joe [Straczynski] makes it pretty clear of what he wants to see and what he doesn't want to see. His imagination is colorful, so you build from there. You take his ideas . . . 'How can I enhance what he's just come up with?' I can give it more time because I'll get it a week early, I can work on that [his ideas] and build from it. Then I can share my ideas with Joe and John, they'll change it. I'm just building on his words, and then take it and go. It's a fun part when you get to do different sets, and different turn-around stories – some situations in our stories do a total about-face. It's a whole new 'what's happened here?' And when you get these twists and turns it's a lot of fun."

On several occasions John got to direct episodes of BABYLON 5 ("A Spider in the Web," "The Long Twilight Struggle," and "Soul Mates," to name a few). He finds each chance to direct a welcome experience. "You have to remember I am in a situation everyday, all day long, where I've done enough of it. We've got it all there, now what are we going to do to make this happen, make it work, put a twist in it, do this, do that. I would really have to think hard about which show that I've directed was the most challenging. We've been fortunate, and I have been fortunate, to have the actors, and of course our main cast that we have. They are always there, they are always on. It's the opportunity to get a shot and make a certain scene work. I don't call it a challenge, I call it an opportunity."

John lists "TKO" and "Ceremonies of Light and Dark" among his favorite episode that he has directed. "The one I had to be really creative with was 'TKO'. It was kind of a fun set to do, and the story around it with the fighters. It was really a fun thing to say how are we going to do this? We needed a thousand people, the most we could get was 75 people. We made it look like a thousand, it was fun."

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JOHN continued from page 1

When asked to compare working on BABYLON 5 to other shows he worked on John jokingly replied, "Well, we never get to go outside. I've been doing shows like *Magnum P.I.*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Jake and the Fat Man*, and *Paper Dolls* – we got to go on location, go to the ocean. You know this is not living in Hawaii like I did for seven years. It's a fun deal, we have such a great crew. Everyone enjoys each other's company, besides working there. It is a very unique situation."

Is a show with as much continuity between episodes as BABYLON 5 has difficult to deal with? At times he finds it a problem. "You would be surprised. We get help from everybody in the crew, because so many are in tune to our show and are paying attention. My personal feelings . . . I wish the networks would have the continuity that our show has."

In addition to his other credentials John has had the chance to act on BABYLON 5, his most famous role being that of the obnoxious man in "Convictions ". "I never asked for it. I never knew anything about it. I walked in and someone said, 'Speaking of an obnoxious man . . . come here and read this.' Wait a minute now! I was set-up, totally set up. I did one before, that was in 'Grail'. That was a lot of fun to do. Years ago I did bit parts and I haven't done it in so long. I said don't you think you ought to have a reading? I was lucky I got through it!"

Is there a chance that he may return as the obnoxious man? "I don't know? What do you think? Do I have a shot?"

Michael Zmuda

CENTAURIAN SENTINEL CONVENTION LIST

DISCLAIMER: This listing is provided only as a convenience and does not constitute an endorsement or any guarantee (either of guests, dates, ***The Centaurian Sentinel*** or costs) by myself or the provider of the list. Contact the convention organizers for current information, guest lists and to confirm the an event will be held. As a courtesy, all requests by mail should include a SASE for a response; for phone calls please remember to take into account time zones so that you call at a reasonable hour for them. Please send information on additional conventions, updated information to: wandrew@aol.com or to W Andrew York; POB 2307; Universal City TX 78148

Mar 21-23 CREATION; Pasadena Center; PASADENA CA. Info: 411 N Central #300; Glendale CA 91203; 818-409-0960.
B5 Guests: WALTER KOENIG

Mar 21-23 VULKON; Hilton; ST PETERSBURG FL. Info: 12237 SW 50th; Cooper City FL 33330; joemotes@aol.com
B5 Guest: PAT TALLMAN

Mar 21-23 EARTHSTATION 97; EDMONTON ALB. Info: sfcon@oanet.com; www.tgx.com/sfcon
B5 Guest: MIRA FURLAN

Mar 21-23 FOR THE KIDS 2; Sheraton Inn; CHARLOTTESVILLE VA. Info: POB 123; Quinque VA 22965; rws@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu
B5 Guest: MICHAEL O'HARE

Apr 4-6 I-CON; STONY BROOK NY. Info: POB 550; Stony Brook NY 11790; 516-632-6045; info@iconsf.org
B5 Guests: J MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI; MICHAEL O'HARE; HARLAN ELLISON

Apr 11-13 VULKON; Howard Johnsons/ Castlegate; ATLANTA GA. Info:12237 SW 50th; Cooper City FL 33330; joemotes@aol.com.
B5 Guest: PAT TALLMAN

Apr 11-13 STARFEST, Holiday Inn; DENVER CO. Info: 8400 E Iliff; Denver CO 80224; 1-888-STARLAND; starland@starland.com
B5 Guests: JEFF CONAWAY

Apr 19-20 CREATION; DEARBORN MI. Info: 411 N Central #300; Glendale CA 91203; 818-409-0960.
B5 Guest: JASON CARTER

May 9-11 MARCON 32; Hyatt Regency; COLUMBUS OH. Info: PO Box 141414, Columbus OH 43214; (614) 475-8181; info@marcon.org; http://www.marcon.org.
B5 Guests: J MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

May 9-11 FEDERATION CONVENTION, Maritim Hotel, Info: (0)821/219 1936; http://www.eject.com/startrek/stce
B5 Guests: MIRA FURLAN

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May 13-23 SCI-FI SEA CRUISE; depart Key West FL. Info: POB 936135; Margate FL 33093; 561-637-4430; whocruiser@aol.com; http://www.emi.net/~pltech/FPC/cruise.html
B5 Guest: MIRA FURLAN

May 31-Jun 1 SCI-FI DREAMIN'; Lycoming College; WILLIAMSPORT PA. Info: 1738 East Third #197; Williamsport PA 17701; mutchler@csrlink.net
B5 Guest: JASON CARTER

May 30-Jun 1 THUNDERCON 7; Clarion Hotel; OKLAHOMA CITY OK. Info: POB 892545; Oklahoma City OK 73189; 405-692-7035; mdmoery@icon.net
B5 Guest: RICHARD BIGGS

Jun 3-6 WESTERCON; Sheraton Hotel; SEATTLE WA. Info: POB 47696; Atlanta GA 30362-0696; 770-925-0115; http://www.dragoncon.org
B5 Guest: PETER DAVID

Jun 21 CREATION; Westchester County Center, WHITE PLAINS, NY. Info: 411 N Central #300; Glendale CA 91203; 818-409-0960.
B5 Guest: CLAUDIA CHRISTIAN

Jun 21-22 BEST OF BOTH WORLDS; Masonic Centre; SYDNEY AUSTRALIA. Info: POB 797; Fairfield New South Wales 2165 AUSTRALIA; 02 9523 8385
B5 Guests: JEFFREY WILLERTH; JIM LOCKETT

Jun 28-29 GENESIS CON '97; Harrisburg Holiday Inn; NEW CUMBERLAND, PA. Info: Gary Productions, POB 187, Boiling Springs, PA 17007
B5 Guest: Richard Biggs

Jul 3-6 WESTERCON 50; Downtown Sheraton; SEATTLE WA. Info: POB 283; Seattle WA 98111.
B5 Guest: J MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

Jul 5-6 JUMPGATE '97; Hotel Victor; DUBLIN IRELAND. Info: 18 Watermill Road; Raheny Dublin 5 IRELAND; jumpgate@indigo.ie
B5 Guests: MIRA FURLAN; STEPHEN FURST; WALTER KOENIG

Jul 11-13 SHORE LEAVE; Marritt Inn; HUNT VALLEY MD. Info: POB 6809; Towson MD 21285; 410-821-5563; shoreleave@aol.com; http://members.aol.com/shoreleave/index.htm
B5 Guests: PETER DAVID; TIM DEHAAS

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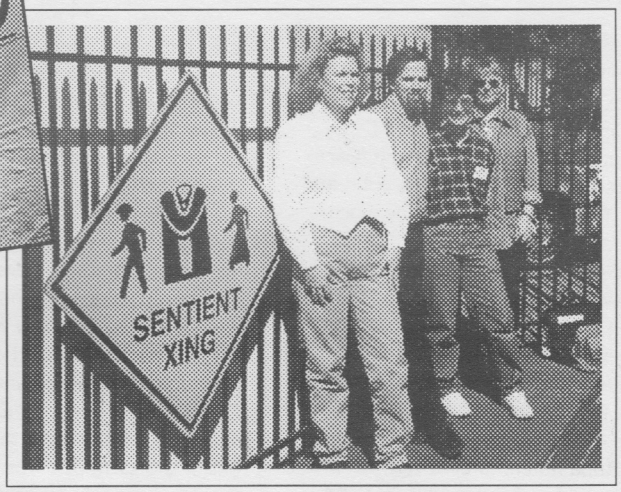
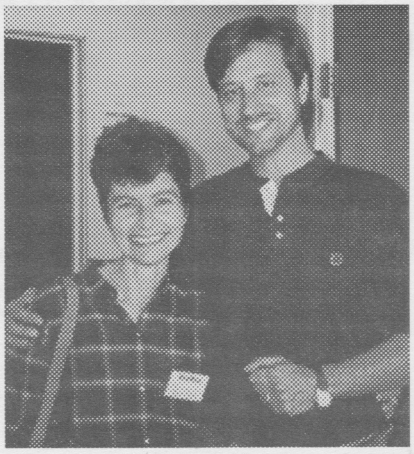
A Scrapbook of Our Visit to Babylonian Productions



In February ***The Centaurian Sentinel*** was invited to spend two days at BABYLON 5's stages and had the opportunity to interview many people who work at Babylonian Productions. To the right is a photo of our delegation: (from left to right) Cecilia Andrew, Michael Zmuda, Sandy Bruckner, and Mary Besig.

photos ©1997 Michael Zmuda & Sandra Bruckner

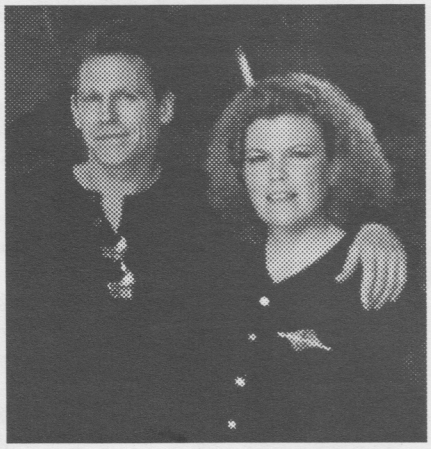
Bruce Boxleitner was just as excited to talk to us about BABYLON 5 as we were with him.



During our visit Jeffrey Willerth was one of our amiable guides.

We had an opportunity to do lunch with J. Michael Straczynski on bar-b-que day.

Jeff Conaway was the perfect breakfast guest on Saturday.



Peter Jurasik visited the set on his day off with his son Benjamin.

The urge to try on a helmet was too irresistible to pass!

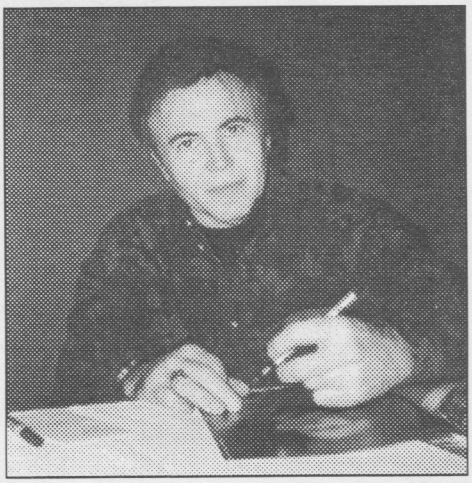
BABTREK

February 14-16, 1997, Durham, NC. BABYLON 5 Guests: Jerry Doyle and Walter Koenig.

The ROC of Ages hosted the Bab-Trek convention in Durham, NC on February 14-16. The guest list was quite impressive. It included Walter Koenig (Alfred Bester), Jerry Doyle (Michael Garibaldi), Andrew Robinson (Garak from *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*), John and Bjo Trimble, Tim DeHaas, and many more interesting people.

The first celebrity, Walter Koenig, better known as Pavel Chekov, or Bester, began his talk at 11 am. As he walked to the stage it was apparent he was not feeling well. He received a hearty round of applause because the fans appreciated the effort he was making.

Once on stage he came alive with his presentation. He spoke about a new CD-ROM game that he and George Takei were making. He said he had more lines in the game than he had in all six of the *Star Trek* movies. He stated it was disappointing as an actor that with few exceptions the *Star Trek* movies did not



Feeling a bit under the weather, Walter Koenig went on to entertain fans.

flesh out the supporting characters. Originally he did not want to appear in *Generations* and he turned down Paramount's offer. Paramount invited him to visit and give his input about the film. He was very flattered and suggested several scenes. He mentioned that one of his best performances was at Kirk's death, however then he stated that nobody would ever see it because it was cut from the film. This led him to discuss BABYLON 5.

He showed two clips from an upcoming episode "Epiphanies". The first clip was the producer's take. This scene showed Bester talking to Sheridan and his crew. He explained how he wanted to trade vital information for a very dangerous favor. It also had humor where Bester was trying to convince them how he helped them fight the Shadows. Unfortunately, in the second scene, which was the director's cut, the humor was cut from the take, and a good portion of his speech. Apparently the episode was running 3 1/2 minutes over and they needed to trim from the scenes, He vowed never to watch producer's cuts again.

He stated that he would be appearing in at least two more episodes. He mentioned that he was asked if he would like to appear in the movie that TNT will be making when it show B5 in syndication. He also hinted that while there will be a fifth season, it might be as a new spin-off series.

He mentioned several times that he enjoyed playing Bester. He did not play Bester as an evil person, but as a person who is motivated by a personal agenda that he believes in deeply. Koenig originally was going to play Knight One, however a heart attack stopped him. J. Michael Straczynski said he would write another role.

At one time, Koenig thought the only way out of the story plot was to kill his character. So convinced was he that JMS was going to kill his character of Bester, that Koenig imagined what would be the best way for his character to die, and gave the suggestion to JMS. Koenig expressed relief that JMS never took him up on his suggestion. After his presentation, Koenig signed autographs..

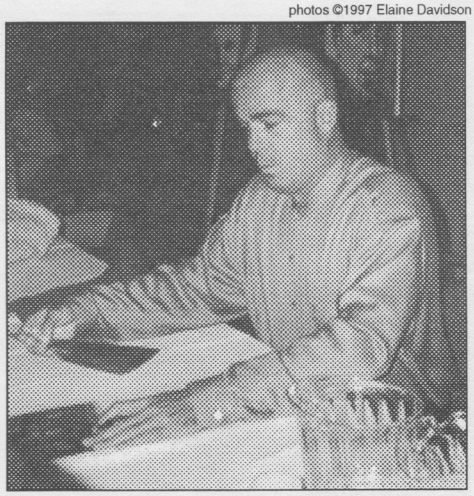
Jerry Doyle, better known as Mr. Garibaldi, received thunderous applause as he approached the stage. He graciously accepted a certificate from the con's host. It was from the governor of North Carolina and it made him an official citizen of the state.

Jerry was the most dynamic speaker of the day. He explained that he did not get much sleep the previous evening. His filming schedule Fridays is usually light, however this Friday he was in almost every scene, so he did not get to depart California until late in the evening. To make matters worse, because of the possible American Airlines strike, he had to fly to Nome, Alaska (he joked) before reaching North Carolina.

Jerry immediately asked the audience for any questions. Jerry's quick wit had the audience laughing and clapping the entire time. One question was about a rumor that his resume when he started acting was not entirely correct. He immediately said of course he lied on it. Apparently if you do not have many stage credits you do not get in for interviews. He listed several plays that he thought would sound good. He also listed that he danced with the Repertory Theater of Harlem. He said he purposefully used Harlem so people would know he was joking. It amused him when nobody ever questioned it.

He tactfully didn't answer questions about who was his favorite actor on the show to work with. He stated that everyone brought his or her own kind of energy and talent to their parts. His favorite show, was when he was in a coma and just had to lie on a bed. He did mention a scene with Dwight Schultz that had touched him deeply. Schultz played the derelict Amos who survived an earlier attack by an

photos ©1997 Elaine Davidson



Jerry Doyle was granted official state citizenship by the governor of North Carolina.

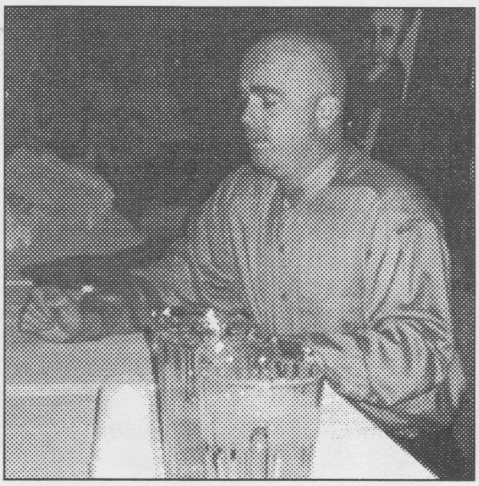
alien monster. Jerry was trying to get Amos to come with him to find the monster. During the tussle Amos had dropped his coat on the floor. Jerry bent down to pick the coat up. As he picked it up, he remembered a scene in his own life. It was at his father's grave. Without knowing what Jerry had been thinking about, Dwight took the coat and kissed it and said "to the honored dead." Jerry thought it was neat how they connected at that level.

When asked about practical jokes, Jerry mentioned a recent shot where he was lying in his bed. A group of strong men break into his room and grab him. The scene calls for him to fight and struggle against them. The first time when they came rushing in he stayed asleep. One of the abductors ad-libed to him "Wake up, we've come to kidnap you." The second time, there is this big bang on the door. Jerry had locked them out of the room.

One woman asked, "I know you won't have female companionship this forth season, but how about season five?" Jerry said, "Whoa, I will be getting some horizontal action within the next couple of episodes." A smart aleck yelled out, "Who is he?" Jerry retorted "So, you think you're funny, I'll see you after the show!" He then said, "it was not going to be Franklin, I may cook for him, and talk about his stim problem, but that's it." He told the audience that it would be with someone we all know.

Someone asked about what made him decide to quit his broker job and become and actor? He explained how he only liked his paycheck from his broker job, and acting had wealth, power, and women. Then he became serious and related how his father had died at forty one he thought life was too short not to do what you enjoy.

He was questioned about *Captain Simian*. He said he didn't care about animation except of course, for *Captain Simian*. He said he plays the monkey as a cross between Captain Kirk and Cliff Clavern from *Cheers*. He knew it was a hit when his four year old son came running into the kitchen and exclaimed, "Daddy, you have hands on your feet!"



Does he like Daffy Duck was the next inquiry. He said "No, it's a Warner Bros. thing. Why do you think I haven't had any women in four seasons? It's because I have that duck hanging over my bed! The only cartoon I would like to see is the Wile E. Coyote finally kill the Road Runner, with a caption that says, 'Beep, beep, my ass!'"

When questioned whether Talia Winters would return, he replied, "No. She is way out of the loop. She's on another show now, *NYPD Blue*."

"Are you Bester's ace in the hole?" was another question. Jerry said, "Let me answer this real Kosh-like, 'yes and no.'"

"Are you interested in running for office?" Jerry gave a positive response. He expounded on his belief that the government needs to stop micromanaging people's lives and let them pursue their goals. He reasoned that the problem in this country is the extreme right and the extreme left. The solution was for moderates to take over. He joked about how although he was a conservative, he becomes an ultra conservative when he talks with J. Michael Straczynski because he enjoys arguing with him. They were talking about the death penalty one day, when Jerry said, "I don't believe in the electric chair, I think they need to have electric 'benches', so more people could be executed at one time." JMS remembered that line and included it in an episode.

When asked about his job, Jerry said he loved it. He explained how his dad was a policeman for twenty years and was dodging bullets for only $40,000 a year. It was not something he would enjoy doing. he said his heroes were NASA's astronauts. They were actually true pioneers and risk takers. They are riding on a big bomb built by the lowest bidder. NASA let Jerry suit-up and sit in a shuttle. He said that was a great experience.

Elaine Davidson

BABYLON 5 TECH FILE

PPG

Phased Plasma Gun

The Phased Plasma Gun (PPG) is a standard EarthForce issued weapon, which is produced as both a pistol and rifle. It is powered by a removable energy cap and fires superheated gas projectiles known as plasma.

A PPG has several settings, which can stun or kill a person. Its highest setting can easily burn through a body or disintegrate an object. The charge dissipates rapidly after striking its target, which prevents it from damaging a ship's hull. Discharging a weapon can cause it to get extremely hot.

With the exception of PPGs owned by Earth Alliance special agents, each weapon has a serial number etched on its inner coil. The coil, which can not be removed, is made of a harder-than-diamond morbidium alloy.

➢ The PPG handgun was designed and built by Gene Young for BABYLON 5, the series. The working model PPGs, which have a battery powered light that is activated by pressing the trigger, is constructed with 20 pieces of machined aluminum. Non-working background guns are created from molds and are painted.

The Shadows Will Get You

Michael Garibaldi has looked in the book G'Quon
(That ancient book of Narnish lore that he was thumping on)
And read about the "mindwalkers" that sadly are no more
And found a secret weapon we can use to fight this war.
But even if the weapon gives our fighters extra clout,
The Shadows will get you
If you
Don't
Watch
Out!

Bester says he's with us, but we trust him not a bit,
We know they're using telepaths to guide the Shadow ships.
Sheridan insisted that the Vorlons join the fray
Although it means he'll have to pay a dreadful price one day.
And even with the Vorlons' help, you have to have some doubt,
For the Shadows will get you
If you
Don't
Watch
Out!

Londo thinks Lord Refa has killed his dearest joy
And works again with Morden, who thought up the sneaky ploy.
Delenn confessed her hidden sin and told G'Kar the facts
And now he's on the council and aware of secret acts
To defeat the wicked enemy that's lurking hereabout,
For the Shadows will get you
If you
Don't
Watch
Out!

Ivanova is ready to do her level best;
The doctor's quit as chief of staff and gone upon a quest,
As we build up alliances with species here and there
That have seen the Shadows routed and now think they want a share.
But though your heart is faithful and your courage firm and stout,
The Shadows will get you
If you
Don't
Watch
Out!

poem by **Donna Edsall**

LUNACON

March 7-9, 1997, Rye Town Hilton, Port Chester, NY.
BABYLON 5 guest: Michael O'Hare.

Lunacon has been a meeting place for fans of science fiction since 1957. Traditionally the annual convention has always had a literary influence, presenting panels with titles like "The Rise of Esoterics and Spirituality in Modern Science Fiction" and "Interspecies Conflicts: Is It Inevitable?" This year, for the first time ever, they included a media guest in the con's line-up – with the honor going to Michael O'Hare. Other guests of honors included writer C.J. Cherryh, artist David A. Cherry, and fan Michael J. Walsh.

My con schedule started off Friday night doing a table at the "Meet the Fans" event, with an invitation courtesy of Philip De Parto from The Science Fiction Association of Bergen County, NJ. The 90 minutes I had at my table flew by as I chatted with B5 fans about the show and the newsletter.

Other B5 events scheduled for that night were a B5 live-action role playing game and a viewing of first season episodes in the Con Suite (also scheduled for Saturday night).

Michael O'Hare, with Sandy Bruckner (also Michael's booking agent), at his autograph session.

I arrived early Saturday morning to attend David A. Cherry's informative sessions on creating science fiction and fantasy illustrations, which proved to be an inspiring three hours.

Michael O'Hare was scheduled to do his first presentation at 1 pm so I was able to quickly run down to the dealer's rooms to scan the tables for B5 merchandise. B5 t-shirts, mugs, and novels were all available. One dealer who was selling the UK B5 calendars had already sold out of them. I found some pencil sketches of B5 characters available for purchase at one table, and unfortunately unlicensed B5 security passes at another.

Michael, looking a bit like John Lennon with his wire-framed glasses and casually parted hair, started off his session by asking the audience if they would like to hear him read some poetry. The audience's response started out as "yes," changed to "no," and then to laughter.

Michael O'Hare gave a very animated presentation as Lunacon's very first media guest.

He continued and read several poems by James Cavanaugh.

Before letting the audience start questioning him he asked, "What did you think of my hairdo as Valen?" which received a round of laughter from the crowd.

Michael discussed his experiences with BABYLON 5. He mentioned that he had no idea what he was stepping into when he started the role of Jeffrey Sinclair. He felt he had some influence in the character of Sinclair since J. Michael Straczynski writes the parts of characters towards the actual actor, but that's as far as the influence went, and each actor made sure that they were careful to say their script exactly as JMS wrote it.

His work day as Sinclair was very demanding since it was a main character role. He described an average work day starting at 6 or 7 am, and lasting 12 hours. On heavy days he worked almost as hard as the crews.

Michael was notified two months before filming started that he would be reprising his role of Sinclair and would be doing Valen. It was an unusual, but a happy experience for him to be back on the sets of B5 – unusual because it was a different character. He is certain that the Sinclair/Valen character will never return to the show, but commented, "You never know with Joe!"

He mentioned that he is currently working on a new UK television series titled *Heretic*, which he described as a science fiction show about angels. The series, which will be produced by Neil Jackson, would begin filming this September and would include Ed Wasser as the lead character.

Michael was asked how the development of the B5 story arc actually matched his idea of where it would go. He responded, "It certainly went in all kinds of places none of us expected it to go. Joe keeps his own council. We were pretty good at keeping the secrets."

Michael praised the people he worked with, calling John C. Flinn III a "wonderful guy." He described Jerry Doyle as being a very funny guy and a cut-up, much like Garibaldi. "Claudia is very serious, but she is also funny and goofs around a bit. Andreas Katsulas is very serious and keeps things to himself quite often. He doesn't horse-around much. Peter Jurasik is very outgoing, friendly, and happy. Ed Wasser is a very nice guy [pausing as the audience laughs] . . . and Ed has that quality like Morden – kind of like a business man making a deal with you – but not as serious as Morden. Mira Furlan is a wonderful, wonderful lovely lady – a delight to work with. Jeff Conaway is a very nice guy."

Michael described Bill Mumy as a "great guy" and mentioned that he is the one who coined the phrase "the bone", as in "going to wear the bone." He described how Bill has slits cut into the side of his Minbari prosthetic which are kept open with toothpicks so that he can hear during his breaks from filming.

When asked if anyone was particularly hard to work with he replied that he never had that experience – they all worked under a time restraint and had to work together.

Michael, who had been bitten by the acting bug at an early age, would like to play "King Lear" when he gets older and the opportunity presents itself. He mentioned that a career in acting is a hard job, and that he sometimes gets tired of it.

When asked if he thinks that his role of B5 would hurt his career in the long run, he replied, "I think it will help me, don't you think?" To which the audience unanimously replied with an applause!

Looking through the program guide I noticed that Michael was listed as a participant in the panel "What BABYLON 5 Gets Wrong", which was scheduled for 6:00 that evening. I also noticed a couple of B5 parties/events posted on the con bulletin board that were to take place that night. Unfortunately my schedule prevented me from staying for any of these activities or attending the con the next day.

On Sunday Michael was again scheduled for a question and answer session and was included in a panel titled "BABYLON 5: Character and Change".

Once again B5 has broken ground by having one of its actors as Lunacon's first media guest in its history. I look forward to seeing more B5 guests at future Lunacon conventions.

Michael Zmuda

BABYLON 5 EPISODES

Sic Transit Vir (#313)

Vir poses with his future wife of a marriage that has been prearranged by their parents.

Vir, who is on Centauri Prime, has successfully presented his reports on Minbar to the Royal Court. An official tells him that he will be returning to Babylon 5 before being transferred to Minbar to continue his work. After leaving his briefing he approaches a door, opens it, and walks into a room full of Narns.

Susan Ivanova tells John Sheridan that she keeps having weird dreams. Sheridan compares her subconscious to Babylon 5 – they are both in unfamiliar territory due to the crisis – and she is trying to find herself.

Londo is in his quarters trying to kill a bug with a spatula. He takes a sword off of the wall and drives it through the nuisance just as his door chimes. A young Centauri woman is waiting outside.

Since President Clark has been busy keeping things bottled-up on Earth Babylon 5 has been given a break in its involvement in the crisis. Sheridan asks Delenn if she would like to have an intimate dinner with him and she accepts.

Vir returns to the station. As he enters Londo's quarters Londo tells him that he has a surprise for him and calls out, "You can come out now." The female Centauri enters the room and Londo introduces her as Lyndisty, Vir's wife to be. Lyndisty explains to Vir that they are to be wed in a couple of days through an arrangement made by her mother and his uncle. Vir is confused and tells her that he is not ready to be married, and when he is he wants to do it because of love. Lyndisty will prove to Vir that it will be and tries to convince him that she will be a good wife.

Sheridan cooks Flarn, a Minbari specialty, for Delenn. Delenn disguises her opinion of his horrible tasting version of the meal and graciously eats it.

Vir meets Lyndisty in a hallway. A Narn comes up from behind and lunges toward them with a dagger. Vir protects Lyndisty the best he can. Sheridan overhears a report on the security channel of the attack, which is one level below. He runs down and tries to disarm the knife wielding Narn. The Narn yells out, "Shon'Kar," a Narn blood oath, just before security arrives and fires at him.

Ivanova found out that the dead Narn came aboard with his pouch-brother and warns Vir that the blood oath will fall to the next of kin. Ivanova asks Vir if there is a reason for the Narn's family to have announced a Shon'Kar on him. Vir can't think of a reason.

He then changes the topic and asks her for advice on relationships since he is inexperienced with the opposite sex. Vir explains to her the six levels of ecstasy Centauri have during intimacy, and confides to her that he has only had the opportunity to reach the first level. Ivanova, inexperienced with Centauri anatomy, tries to explain the best she can that enthusiasm, sincerity, compassion, and humor have a lot to do with building a relationship.

Ivanova asks Sheridan to meet her in Londo's quarters. Ivanova reports to him and Londo that Vir has been forging travel papers for over 2,000 Narns. She found out that Vir has created a Centauri persona, Abrahamal Lincolny, who is using his authority to move Narns from their homeworld to work camps on Centauri. These Narns are now reported to be dead. This must be the reason why the Narn attacked Vir.

Meanwhile, another Narn is stalking Lyndisty down a corridor.

Londo congratulates Vir for showing initiative. Vir explains that the Narns are not dead, he had only altered their transit relocation files to appear that they were. Vir had transferred these Narns, who needed medical attention, to forced labor camps on Centauri under more comfortable conditions. From there he sent them to planets where they could get help for their injuries. Londo is concerned that this may become a scandal, and that he will be blamed since he is the person responsible for making Vir a liaison to Minbar.

Lyndisty meets Vir in the garden and asks what is bothering him. She tries to comfort him by saying, "Wherever there is trouble there is a Narn in the center of it," which he feels is a degrading remark.

She tells him that she has a surprise for him and leads him to his room. On the floor is the Narn that was stalking her, tied-up and unconscious. She explains that she had trapped him, and hands Vir the Narn's knife, telling Vir that she saved this one for him and that he should accept the Narn as a gift of her love. When Vir becomes reluctant to kill the Narn she confesses that she has done it hundreds of times before. Her father was stationed on Narn and was in charge of "culling the herds." She witnessed him as he cut out "aggressive Narns" from the population, sometimes taking out entire villages where aggression was too deeply rooted. This Narn, she explains, had escaped one of the villages with his brother.

Londo tells Vir that he is disappointed with him and that all records of the Narn relocations will be destroyed. Londo complains that the Minbari took advantage of him and that he will not be returning to Minbar as planned. He tells Vir that he will be moved down a level and warns him that Lyndisty's family may reconsider the marriage arrangement because of the demotion and have her back to Centauri Prime.

Ivanova convince Sheridan that she could continue to use the persona Vir created to save more Narn lives. Sheridan agrees and Ivanova realizes that this might be the direction her life needs.

Vir sees Lyndisty off and tells her that her views will change in time. She hopes for the same from Vir and lets him know that she will be waiting for him.

Written by J. Michael Straczynski, produced by John Copeland, directed by Jesús Treviño, edited by Suzanne Sternlight, with John C. Flinn III as Director of Photography. Starring: Carmen Thomas – Lyndisty, Damian London – Centauri Official, James Jude Courtney – Narn #1.

Addenda: It was not stated in this episode if Vir had killed the Narn that Lyndisty presented to him. A line that stated that the Narn was recuperating in Medlab had been accidentally edited from the episode when it was being cut for time.

A Late Delivery from Avalon (#312)

A visitor named Arthur comes to Babylon 5 to return Excalibur to the Lady of the Lake.

The jumpgate near Babylon 5 opens as the first ship to continue trade with the station exits.

Michael Garibaldi is on line at the post office, complaining to the postmaster that delivery charges have tripled since the revolution. He refuses to pay 100 credits for a package of fresh food that was sent to him from Earth. The postmaster returns the package to a shelf.

A passenger on the transport Asimov is dreaming that he is walking down a corridor lined with an endless amount of doors. He shuts a door that is blowing out a forceful wind. A second door opens with explosions coming from it. He runs down the hall, comes to an upright sword and grasps it.

Stephen Franklin is DownBelow with Marcus. As he diagnosis patients he agrees with Marcus that there is an outbreak of Banta flu and orders inoculations. The illness effects humans who eat human food that has fermented with alien food. Humans in DownBelow have been spotted eating food out of waste bins.

Franklin asks Marcus what the symbolism of his Ranger pin is. Marcus explains that the Minbari and Human are blending together in the middle to signify the halves of our soul uniting against the common enemy. The stone in the middle is called Isil'Za, which translates to "the future, birth, beginnings, dawn of the new age." He explains that the Minbari taught him how to live, how to breath, how to fight, and how to die. "And they taught me terror, how to use it."

A shuttle from the Asimov docks on Babylon 5 and the person who was having the nightmare walks through customs, setting off the weapon detector. A security guard, who calls him "Mister," asks him to stop and give up his drawn sword. The man demands, "Mister?! Have I been gone that Long? Have you forgotten everything? I am Arthur, son of Uther Pendragon, king of the Britons. No man takes Excalibur from me and lives!"

Marcus, who is passing by with Franklin, steps in and explains that they

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EPISODES *continued from page 7*

weren't alerted of his arrival and asks him to come with him. Arthur points his sword at Marcus, realizing that he is being lied to. Franklin tells security that he will take responsibility for him. When Arthur finds out that Franklin is a doctor he remarks that he is well, "just a little late."

Franklin can find no identification for the man, he must have ditched it before the shuttle docked. Franklin asks how he managed to arrive on B5. Arthur only remembers being in a battle 1700 years ago. He was on his way to return Excalibur to the Lady of the Lake when he was wounded. He was taken to the island of Avalon to heal and was told that he would sleep for a long time and would be waken when he is most needed.

Franklin reports to Sheridan about Arthur. Marcus brings up a point that the Vorlons, who have been to Earth in the past, might have taken Arthur out of his time and preserved him, like they did with Sebastian. Franklin then realizes that Arthur's speech patterns are too modern and remarks that he must have been traumatized somehow. Franklin is alerted that the man has left the sickbay.

Arthur is DownBelow. He meets an old lady who is crying. She tells him that she was mugged by men who took a picture of her dead husband that was an expensive frame. He asks her for information on these men so that he might find them.

G'Kar is DownBelow taking a data crystal from a human who smuggles messages from Narns on the station to and from homeworld. Noise from down the corridor interrupts their business. As G'Kar approaches the disturbance he sees Arthur coming to the rescue of a victim who is being beaten on by several men. After Arthur breaks up the fight he demands the frame from one of the men. The man refuses to give up the photo and tells Arthur that more of his friends have just arrived and will help defend him. G'Kar steps in to help Arthur, stating that he also has friends.

After the melee the two celebrate at a bar. G'Kar revels in being involved in such a great no-nonsense fight. Arthur knights him Sir G'Kar, the Red Knight. While he tells G'Kar that he feels responsible for his knights who were slain in battle he has a vision of starfuries exploding. He explains that his knights were killed in a battle that was started over a misunderstanding.

Garibaldi and an assistant sneak into the post office to get his package, with intent to leave the old postage fee in exchange. The postmaster catches him just as he fires off the lock to the cage. Now he must also pay for a new lock.

Marcus finds the G'Kar and Arthur and asks Arthur to accompany him to talk with Garibaldi. Before he passes out G'Kar says that he will vouch for Arthur's character.

Sheridan and Ivanova address the League of Non-Aligned Worlds, many who are now fighting against each other. They try to convince the beings that the station can still be used productively as a neutral port for trade, in hope that the worlds will pay the station for the service. Ivanova hands out copies of the Babylon Treaty and a defense plan, which would prevent waring worlds from defending the station at the same time.

Franklin explains to Marcus that he tested a sample of Arthur's DNA and has compared it to Earth Force's DNA log. Marcus studies the report and is concerned that Arthur may not be able to handle the truth of who he really is. Franklin disagrees stating that he needs to know the truth to heal.

Franklin confronts Arthur with the fact that he is really David MacIntyre, an officer who fought in the Battle of the Line and was given an honorable discharge from Earth Force. MacIntyre was a gunner sergeant on the Prometheus – the first ship to make contact with the Minbari. The Minbari had approached the ships from Earth with their gun ports open. The humans perceived this as a threat, not as a friendly gesture that was customary of Minbari. The Prometheus' captain ordered him to fire the first shot at the ship that the Minbari Leader Dukhat was killed on. He recounted how only 200 men survived, and felt responsible for the 2,000 who died. MacIntyre doesn't believe Franklin and tells him that he must return Excalibur to the Lady of the Lake.

In a vision Arthur sees himself reaching for Excalibur. A knight comes up from behind and drives a sword into his back. MacIntyre becomes catatonic.

Ivanova reports to Sheridan that the majority of aliens have signed the treaty.

Marcus and Franklin try to find out why MacIntyre came to Babylon 5 on the 15th anniversary of the beginning of the war. They figure that the sword is a symbol of his pain and that he has to go full circle before he can come to peace. They deduce that Delenn must be the Lady of the Lake.

Delenn approaches MacIntyre. In a vision the two reach out to each other. MacIntyre hands the sword to Delenn and squeezes her hand.

Garibaldi picks up his mail, paying an exorbitant fee for the delivery and for cost of the lock. In retaliation he tells the postmaster that he will have to start paying for his rent since the government stopped paying for his room due to the fact that the station is no longer under Earth control.

G'Kar has coordinated for MacIntyre to be sent to the Narn homeworld where he is needed to help form a new Round Table for the resistance.

Written by J. Michael Straczynski, produced by John Copeland, directed by Michael Vejar, edited by David W. Foster, with John C. Flinn III as Director of Photography. Starring: Michael York – Arthur, Michael Kagan – Emmett Farquaha, Roger Hampton – Merchant, Dona Hardy – Old Woman, Michael Francis Kelly – Security Officer, James Kiriyama-Lem, Med Tech, Robert Schuch – Lurker, Jerry O'Donnell – Security Guard #2.

summaries by **Michael Zmuda**

TRANSMISSIONS

No good news yet for a fifth season of B5 or the spin-off series.

The following is from a message J. Michael Straczynski posted on Genie: "On other subjects . . . At WB's urging, and I have to be nuts to do this . . . I'm going to be directing 422."

Episode #417 is titled "Face Of The Enemy".

David Bassom's book *The Making of Babylon 5* will soon be available in the US from Del Rey. According to JMS they will be producing a number of nonfiction B5 books, including a three volume episode guide that will cover the first three seasons.

BABYLON 5 figures will be available in the near future. The 10" figures will be released in groups of three. The first group will contain Sheridan, Delenn, and G'Kar, the second group will include Londo, Ivanova, and Kosh, and the third will include Garibaldi.

More B5 card sets are on the way. According to Stephen Smith, the author of previous sets, Fleer/Skybox will release a set covering season four characters and episodes sometime in October. In addition, a set called "Babylon 5: Special Edition" will be available in June. Stephen noted the following about this set on Genie: "While the annual set tends to focus more towards being a reference guide for the series to date, 'Babylon 5: Special Edition' will give us an opportunity to look at certain aspects of B5 in a little bit more depth than usual.

"For example, one of the subsets will feature B5's pilot, 'The Gathering.' For those of you who never saw the pilot, you'll finally have the chance to see what those characters looked like. And for those of you who've been with B5 since the beginning, it's an opportunity to remember how far we've come. Pending final approvals, we'll have cards for Commander Sinclair, Laurel Takashima, Dr. Kyle, Carolyn Sikes, Del Varner, and our friends who are still with us today – Garibaldi, Lyta, Delenn, Londo and G'Kar."

Birthday wishes go out to Richard Biggs (March 18).

Mykl

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B5 CLUBS

JEFF CONAWAY/ZACK ALLEN FAN CLUB. Jeff is definitely agreeable to the idea if enough people want to join. The cost would be minimal, just enough to cover postage and printing, probably $10. The introductory package would probably include a picture or pictures of Jeff, a newsletter including an interview with Jeff and comments by Jeff, convention dates where he will be appearing, biographical info, and a list of TV and movies he has done. The newsletter would continue quarterly and would be open to fan letters, art work, poetry, convention reports, etc. plus Jeff's comments and input. Contact CeSpaceMuz@aol.com or write to The Jeff Conaway Fan Club, 8330 Silvan Wind Lane, Houston, TX 77040-1412.

CLAUDIA CHRISTIAN FAN CLUB. The Claudia Christian Appreciation Society is a fan club which is sanctioned by Claudia. Members receive a membership card, issues of newsletters, and photos of Claudia. Dues are £10 in the U.K, £12 for elsewhere in Europe, and £16 for U.S and rest of world.
Contact: The Claudia Christian Appreciation Society, 148a Queensway, Bayswater, London W2 6LY, England.